

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065424

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 DHA-02 SCA-01 ARA-10 ACDA-10 /104 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 23

1. THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE  
MARCH 23 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING.

2. Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT WHAT NIGERIA MIGHT  
CONTRIBUTE TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ZAIRE?

A: THE NIGERIANS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO  
PLAY A ROLE WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. I  
DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT AT THE MOMENT. THE  
SECRETARY DID CONFIRM THIS MORNING THAT THE NIGERIAN  
GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO TRY TO HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS  
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PAGE 02 STATE 065424

BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA; AND I THINK HE ALSO INDICATED  
THAT WE FOUND THIS QUITE ENCOURAGING. NOW, BEYOND THAT,  
I HAVE NO DETAILS. IT MAY BE A BIT EARLY TO OFFER ANY  
KIND OF DETAILS ON THIS DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENT.

Q: ARE THERE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE OFFERED THEIR  
GOOD AUSPICES?

A: THAT'S THE ONLY ONE I KNOW OF AT THE MOMENT.

5. Q: HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE COMPLETE GENESIS OF IT. ALTHOUGH I HAVE SAID WE ARE CERTAINLY ENCOURAGED BY IT AND APPLAUD IT, IT WAS NOT, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, AT OUR INITIATIVE OR AT OUR REQUEST. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A PRECISE ANALYSIS.

6. Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE NIGERIANS WENT TO THE ZAIROIS FIRST, OR DID THEY COME TO US FIRST, AND SAY, "WE'D LIKE TO----"

A: I DON'T KNOW.

7. Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER KARL-I-BOND TO ANGOLA LAST WEEK WAS, IN ANY WAY, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE UNITED STATES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO INDICATION OF THAT

8. Q: FROM THE UNITED STATES VIEWPOINT, IS IT STILL A FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THE -- I WANT TO SAY "TERRITORIAL" , I DON'T WANT TO USE YOUR PHRASE -- AGAINST ANY BREAK-AWAY, ANY SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT. WE'RE STILL COMMITTED TO THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 065424

A: YES.

9. ---WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF TERRITORY OR SECESSION?

A: RIGHT.

10. IT WAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED HERE -- I BELIEVE IT WAS YESTERDAY -- THAT THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT -- EXCUSE ME. IT WAS OTHER OFFICIALS THAT MENTIONED IT EARLIER -- THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY OFFERED WHAT IT CALLED AMNESTY TO THE KATANGESE.

A: I DIDN'T MENTION THAT HERE.

11. NO. IT WAS MENTIONED BY OTHER OFFICIALS. IT HAD BEEN OFFERED TO THE KATANGAN PEOPLE AT AN EARLIER STAGE. DO YOU KNOW ENOUGH OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS TO TELL US IF THAT IS A PART OF THE FOCUS FOR THE

CURRENT DIPLOMACY?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT AT ALL. I CAN'T HELP YOU.

12. WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH YOUR STUDY OF ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR ---

A: IT CONTINUES. NO DECISION AS YET.

13. Q: DO THE NEW DIPLOMATIC MOVES AFFECT THE CONSIDERATIONS IN DECIDING WHETHER TO GRANT THIS ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?

A: WELL, I CAN'T GET INTO HOW WE WOULD GO ABOUT MAKING A DECISION LIKE THIS. THE SECRETARY RECEIVED A QUESTION THIS MORNING WHICH WAS SIMILAR IN THEME TO YOURS. I CAN JUST REPEAT TO YOU WHAT HE SAID AND NOT EXPAND  
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 065424

ON THAT. HE SAID, "AT THE MOMENT WE ARE LOOKING TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ON THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION THERE." HE REALLY DID NOT EXPAND ON THAT. THIS IS, I THINK, THE EXTENT OF WHAT YOU CAN SAY ABOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE ZAIRIAN SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST, AND ANY OTHER KIND OF CONSIDERATION WE MAY BE GIVING IN THE MORE DIPLOMATIC AREA.

14. IT SOUNDS LIKE A DEFERRAL, THEN, OF THE DECISION.

A: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T THINK I CAN SPECULATE ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TWO.

15. Q: THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT WHAT HE MEANT TO IMPLY WAS THAT ZAIRE'S REQUEST MAY BE UNNECESSARY.

A: YES. THAT'S THE ACTUAL QUOTE: "IT MAY BE UNNECESSARY, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?" AND THE SECRETARY REPLIED, "IT MAY BE UNNECESSARY." I CAN'T ENLIGHTEN YOU BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S PRECISE WORDS ON THAT.

16. Q: THERE SEEMS TO BE A DETERIORATION OF THE ZAIRE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION---

A: THAT'S YOUR FAVORITE WORD.

17. Q: WELL, IT SEEMS THAT TODAY'S REPORTS IN THE NEWSPAPERS SAY THAT ALL IS NOT AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT IS SAYING. DO YOU HAVE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION?

A: NO, I DON'T, AND CERTAINLY NOT IN TERMS OF JUDGING WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE UP OR DOWN. I HAVE ONLY THAT THE FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE AREA WEST OF MUTSHATUSHA, AND THAT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE HAS NOT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 065424

BEEN A MAJOR CONFRONTATION OF FORCES. BEYOND THAT, I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ASSESSMENT.

18. Q: YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH ITS ALLIES WHO ALSO HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING AID TO ZAIRE. I WOULD ASSUME THAT APPLIES TO THE CURRENT DIPLOMATIC SITUATION, AS WELL?

A: I HAVE NO PRECISE INDICATION TO THAT EFFECT, BUT I WOULD ASSUME THAT WE CONTINUE TO CONSULT ON THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT, THE DIPLOMATIC MOVE BY NIGERIA, AS WELL AS TO THE PREVIOUS.

19. Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS SEEN NIGERIAN OFFICIALS OR ZAIROIS OFFICIALS?

A: I CAN'T SAY. I DON'T KNOW.

20. Q: DO YOU KNOW IF MR. SCHAUFLELE HAS?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHOM HE HAS SEEN ON THE NIGERIAN SIDE IN RECENT DAYS. MR. GARBA, THE NIGERIAN MINISTER, WAS IN A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WAS ON THE SCHEDULE OR NOT, BUT IT WAS KNOWN THAT HE CAME IN, I BELIEVE, DAY-BEFORE-YESTERDAY AND HE CALLED ON THE SECRETARY.

21. Q: AT WHOSE REQUEST?

A: THAT WAS AT MR. GARBA'S REQUEST.

22. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE AMERICANS IN THE AREA?

A: WE HAVE REPORTS THAT THE TEN MISSIONARIES IN HOUSE ARREST, OR HOUSE DETENTION I GUESS YOU CALL IT, ARE WELL.  
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PAGE 06 STATE 065424

BEYOND THAT I HAVE NO CHANGE IN THE EVACUATION STATUS

OF THE INGA-SHABA PEOPLE FROM KOLWEZI. THAT REMAINS  
AS I GAVE IT TO YOU LAST FRIDAY.

THAT IS IT ON THE STATUS OF AMERICANS. BASICALLY NO  
CHANGE FROM WHAT THE LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.

23. Q: MR. MOBUTU YESTERDAY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE  
ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS DISCLAIMED ANY PARTICIPATION  
OF CUBANS -- ANGOLANS AND CUBANS ---

A: YES.

24. Q: IN THE INTERVENTION THERE IS ZAIRE, MR. MOBUTU  
SAYS THERE ARE CUBANS.

CONSIDERING THAT THE US IS IN CLOSE CONSULTATION AND  
HELPING THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT DO YOU AGREE WITH MR.  
MOBUTU'S STATEMENT?

A: WELL, AS I SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS,  
BUT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED WE HAVE NO FIRM EVIDENCE  
TO INDICATE A DIRECT CUBAN ROLE AND WE STICK WITH OUR  
EVALUATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

25. Q: DO YOU SEE ANY INDIRECT ROLE BY THE CUBANS?

A: WELL, IT IS WELL KNOWN THE CUBANS HAVE A PRESENCE IN  
ANGOLA AND WE HAVE SAID THAT THERE IS -- IT IS LOGICAL  
TO ASSUME, THERE IS A LOGISTICAL BASE FOR THE PEOPLE  
COMING ACROSS THE BORDER INTO ZAIRE. BEYOND THAT WE  
HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING.

26. Q: THE ARMAMENTS THAT ARE FROM THE INVADERS, HAVE  
ANY BEEN CAPTURED THAT SHOWED THAT THEY COME FROM CUBA  
OR WERE SUPPLIED BY CUBA?  
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PAGE 07 STATE 065424

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE AMONG THE WEAPONS BEING  
USED BY THE INVADING FORCES WEAPONS OF SOVIET ORIGIN.  
I THINK THAT IS ABOUT ALL ONE COULD SAY.

27. Q: HAVE YOU BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE SOVIETS  
ABOUT THAT?

A: ABOUT WHAT? I AM SORRY?

28. Q: ABOUT WHAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE AND THEIR  
INTENTIONS ARE IN THE AREA.

A: HAVE WE BEEN CONSULTING?

29. YES.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS OF WHAT WE MAY OR MAY NOT  
HAVE SAID TO THE SOVIETS RECENTLY ON THE SUBJECT OF  
SOUTHERN AFRICA. VANCE

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